

Washington State Library

The people's library since 1853

The State Library is the State's equivalent to the Library of Congress. It provides critical information to the public and decision makers.

What does the State Library do for Decision Makers? The State Library:

- Provides desktop access to substantive, expert-reviewed research. The data is available through specialized **online databases**. These databases are needed in rapidly-changing technical fields such as medicine and science. In 2002, legislators and staff retrieved nearly 110,000 abstracts and full-text articles through these databases.
- Provides access to the only comprehensive, authoritative collection of **state documents**.
- Saves the Legislature money by providing access to **legal research**. For example, the State Library brokers a contract for **LexisNexis**. The contract saved the House and Senate more than \$46,500 last year. In addition, the Library provides **Westlaw's Premise** products to the House and Senate at no charge. This service costs the Library \$30,000 each year.
- Provides online searching and electronic **desktop delivery** of documents. The Library will also send material by **campus mail or regular mail**.
- **Obtains materials** from other libraries that decision makers could not access on their own.
- Provides **experienced reference staff** specializing in state-government information.

Under the Governor's proposed budget:

- **Access to online indexes and full-text journals** disappears, or agencies subscribe individually and absorb the cost.
- **The price of information services goes up** as agencies duplicate subscriptions and licenses at higher unit costs.
- Collections are maintained but not accessible. **Reference service** and **access** to the collections are virtually eliminated.

Washington State Library • Office of the Secretary of State
PO Box 42460, Olympia, WA 98504, 360-704-5200, www.statelib.wa.gov